Building of airport at Kannur, Kerala

9. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made in building an airport at Kannur in Kerala; and

(b) by when Government is expecting to complete the construction of the said airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Government of India has given 'in-principle' approval for a greenfield airport at Kannur in February, 2008.

(b) As per the Techno Economic Feasibility Report submitted by Government of Kerala, the Phase-I of the project is expected to be completed within two years from the commencement of the construction.

Airports at Hyderabad and Bangalore

10. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the existing airports at Hyderabad and Bangalore will be closed once the new airports are commissioned there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that laying of approach roads and other related works/facilities at these new airports is still incomplete;

(d) if so, the reasons for commissioning these new airports in a hurried manner; and

(e) the fate of the existing airports at Hyderabad and Bangalore, which have all the international standard aviation infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The existing airports at Hyderabad and Bangalore are to be closed when the new airports become operational.

(c) The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have undertaken various projects for providing connectivity to the new airports at Shamshabad, (Hyderabad) and Devanhali, (Bangalore). The projects are at various stages of completion.

(d) Commissioning of the new airports is pursuant to the provisions of the contractual agreements with the concerned airport companies.

(e) The existing airports at Hyderabad and Bangalore would be closed for commercial operations once the new airport becomes operational.

Aircrash of a twin engined aircraft in Bangalore

11. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the aircrash of a private twin engined aircraft in Bangalore in September, 2007 was a result of ATF being filled instead of AVGAS into the aircraft; and

(b) what is the status of the investigation into this crash?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) On 08.09.2007 a private twin engine aircraft operated by M/s Joy Alukkas Traders (India) Pvt. Ltd. was involved in an accident at Bangalore. An Inspector of Accidents appointed by Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) under Rule 71 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 is still investigating the accident. Preliminary investigation of the accident revealed that the aircraft was refueled with ATF instead of requisite AVGAS 100LL.

Clearance for Air Kerala

12. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala has asked for the approval of the Central Government to start a budget airline named 'Air Kerala';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the approval has been given; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Though no proposal for formation of any airline by the name 'Air Kerala' is pending with the Government for clearance, the Government of Kerala had informed that a public limited company, 'Air Kerala International Services Limited' has been registered as a Special Purpose Vehicle for a budget airline project. Government of Kerala requested this Ministry for exemption to the proposed airline from the stipulated conditions relating to fleet size and the length of operation in the domestic sector for an airline to be considered for international operations. This request was not considered in the light of the existing Government policy regarding the minimum fleet size of 20 aircraft and experience of 5 years continuous operations in domestic sector for permitting an Indian scheduled carrier to operate international services.

Air services in the country

13. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a quantum leap in the number of airlines, aircrafts, flights and passengers in the recent past in the country;

(b) whether there is no matching improvement in services provided by the airlines or the airport authorities to the passengers;

(c) whether Government proposes to revise the Airport Policy;

(d) whether it is also proposed to establish multiple airports in metropolitan cities in keeping with the practice world wide; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Airports Authority of India has taken measures to deal with the increase in air traffic in the country by augmenting the infrastructure at airports. The measures taken *inter alia*